Yoshiro Mori's India Visit

269. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has expressed its disappointment to the special Japanese envoy Mr. Yoshiro Mori when he visited India, that Japan has not put enough pressure on Pakistan to put a permanent end to terrorism;

(b) if so, Japan's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the details of the other subjects discussed with the special envoy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Former Japanese Prime Minister Yashiro Mori visited India on 20-22 October, 2002 to inaugurate the "Japan Week" organized by the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. He was also designated as Special Envoy of Prime Minister Koizumi.

Mr. Mori welcomed India's decision to re-deploy its forces as well as the successful holding of the elections in Jammu and Kashmir in the face of terrorist activity. He conveyed to Deputy Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister Japan's grief at India's suffering from terrorism. Japan highly values the restraint shown by India in the wake of the December 13 attack on Parliament. Japan has been urging Pakistan to stop infiltration and stop terrorist camps. Mr. Mori also expressed the hope that tensions between Pakistan and India would reduce further and dialogue resumed. Deputy Prime Minister conveyed to Mr. Mori that the attack on the Indian Parliament in December 2001 was the most distressing event for India. India has taken note of the fact that because of international pressure Pakistan said that it would not resort to terrorism to pursue their objectives in Jammu & Kashmir. India welcomed these statements but always held that it would like these implemented on the ground. Unfortunately on the ground there is not much evidence of these statements being translated into action. While discussing the issue of cross-border terrorism, External Affairs Minister conveyed to Mr. Mori our disappointment at the international community's inability to make Pakistan abide by its commitments to the international community to put an end to cross-border terrorism and to dismantle the structures that

supports terrorist activity. He also conveyed India's determination to fight the scourge of cross-border terrorism and protect the lives of the innocent citizens of India.

Indian demand to stop international aid to countries supporting terrorism

270. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made demand that countries supporting terrorism should be barred from any aid and assistance from international aid agencies like World Bank and other institutions; and

(b) if so, the details of their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Seizure of Yasser Arafat's Office

271. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the office of the Palestine leader Yasser Arafat, had been put under siege by the Israeli troops during September, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any statement condemning the Israeli action;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government's stand could be construed as a change in its policy towards the Palestine issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The following statement was issued by the Government of India on 23rd September, 2002 titled "India Expresses Concern At Developments In West Asia":